

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 04420 081716Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----090135Z 118022 /66
R 081628Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 587

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ELECTION ATMOSPHERE: AP RALLY

SUMMARY: AS PART OF A CONTINUING EFFORT TO PASS ON SOME OF THE FLAVOR OF THE SPANISH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THE EMBASSY REPORTS ON AN ALIANZA POPULAR (AP) RALLY HELD IN A MADRID SUBURB - A FAIRLY TYPICAL RALLY, ONE OF THOUSANDS BOTH LARGER AND SMALLER BEING HELD ACROSS SPAIN THIS WEEK. SIZE, ORGANIZATION, SECURITY MEASURES, AND SPEECH CONTENTS ARE REPORTED, AND A PARTIAL EXPLANATION FOR SOME RECENT AP RHETORIC IS SUGGESTED. FOR PURPOSE OF BALANCE AND COMPARISON, COVERAGE OF A PSOE RALLY WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF ATTENDED AN AP (FRAGA-LED CONSERVATIVE) RALLY IN THE PLAZA DE TOROS OF ALCALA DE HENARES, A MADRID SUBURB, AT 20:00 ON JUNE 7. OBSERVATIONS FOLLOW.

3. CROWD: ABOUT 2500. PERHAPS HALF WERE UNDER 30 INCLUDING VIRTUALLY ALL THE "MILITANTES" PASSING OUT LITERATURE, DOING CROWD CONTROL, ETC. INTERESTINGLY, GIVEN AP'S STUFFY IMAGE, THE VAST MAJORITY WERE IN SHIRT SLEEVES, EVEN MANY OLDER PEOPLE. THE MOOD WAS POLITE, REASONABLY ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT NOT EXCITED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 04420 081716Z

4. ORGANIZATION: THE SPECTATORS WERE DIRECTED INTO THE STANDS, OR FOLDING CHAIRS ERECTED IN THE ARENA, BY SQUADS OF POLITE YOUNG PEOPLE. A LARGE ROSTRUM FILLED ONE SIDE OF THE RING, WHILE A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL SOUND SYSTEM MADE THE SPEECHES AUDIBLE NOT ONLY IN THE RING, BUT THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD. TWO SOUND TRUCKS, PULLING LARGE AP POSTERS

ON WHEELS, ROLLED THROUGH ALCALA BEFORE THE MEETING, AS DID SEVERAL CARLOADS OF PARTY WORKERS SCATTERING LEAFLETS. RELAYS OF PRETTY GIRLS WENT THROUGH THE STANDS GIVING FREE COPIES OF THE AP PAPER AND SELLING AP PINS, MATCHES, AND PENS. MANY SPANISH FLAGS WERE SCATTERED THROUGH THE CROWD, TO BE WAVED BY PARTY SUPPORTERS AT APPROPRIATE MOMENTS. ALL IN ALL, ORGANIZATION SEEMED VERY PROFESSIONAL.

5. SECURITY: POLITE, UNOBTUSIVE, BUT EFFECTIVE. AT EVERY ENTRANCE, YOUNG MEN IN SPORT SHIRTS AND JEANS WERE SCANNING THE CROWD AND SEARCHING PURSES AND PACKAGES OF PEOPLE ENTERING. SEVERAL HAD SMALL TWO-WAY RADIOS. NO WEAPONS OR UNIFORMS WERE VISIBLE. INITIALLY, POLICE PRESENCE CONSISTED OF ONE TRAFFIC COP. UPON LEAVING, HOWEVER, EMBOFF, NOTICED TWO CARS OF ARMED POLICE IN A NEARBY PARKING LOT. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A SMALL INCIDENT DURING THE MEETING--PARTY WORKERS RAN TOWARDS ONE ENTRANCE, AND THE CROWD GOT NERVOUS--BUT IF SO IT WAS SOON ENDED.

6. SPEECHES: SRS. ELORRIAGA, BOSQUE AND MARTINEZ EMPERADOR SPOKE, FOLLOWED BY AP SEC GEN FRAGA IRIBARNE (ALL ARE AP CANDIDATES FROM MADRID). BOSQUE (AN EX-MILITARY MAN) SEEMED THE MOST EFFECTIVE. HE STUCK TO ROASTING THE REDS, AND PLATITUDES ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JUNE 15 VOTE, DELIVERED IN A FINE, TUB-THUMPING, ARM-WAVING STYLE. THE LOUDER HE YELLED, THE BETTER THE CROWD LIKED IT. AT ONE POINT HE COMPARED THE DESIRE OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE FOR CHANGE TO THE DESIRE OF A FAMILY THAT HAS PROSPERED TO IMPROVE ITS APARTMENT. AND WHO, HE ASKED, WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 04420 081716Z

RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT PROSPERITY? WHY, FRANCO (WHICH GOT A ROARING OVATION THE BEST OF THE EVENING). IT WAS THE ONLY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO FRANCO DURING THE EVENING.

7. FRAGA GAVE A MORE OR LESS STANDARD AP SPEECH: A BOW TO REFORM, A BOW TO THE REGIONS, DOWN WITH THE REDS, AND WAVE THE FLAG. HIS DELIVERY WAS CLEAR, LOUD, BUT MONOTONOUS, AND HE DID NOT EXCITE THE CROWD. HIS MECHANICAL GESTURES AND LACK OF PATIENCE RADIATED ARROGANCE, AND SQUELCHED THE CROWD WHENEVER ENTHUSIASM SEEMED TO BE BUILDING.

8. COMMENT: ONE POINT STOOD OUT. THE CROWD, IN SPITE OF ITS RELATIVE YOUTH, WAS EVEN MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE AP'S LANGUAGE. THE LOUDEST CHEERS WERE FOR THE MEMORY OF FRANCO, CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM AND REDS, AND FLAG-WAVING PATRIOTISM. THE SPEAKERS COULD APPARENTLY HAVE DRAWN A MORE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM THE CROWD BY HITTING EVEN HARDER, BUT AT THE RISK OF ALIENATING MANY OF THE MODERATES WHO WOULD READ THE NEWSPAPER THE NEXT DAY. THIS MUST PRESENT AP SPEAKERS

WITH A PERMANENT TEMPTATION, AND IS PERHAPS RESPONSIBLE
FOR SOME OF THEIR EXCESSIVE LANGUAGE DURING THE CAMPAIGN.
STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770205-0187
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770679/aaaacqzq.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2231585
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION ATMOSPHERE: AP RALLY SUMMARY: AS PART OF A CONTINUING EFFORT TO PASS ON SOME OF THE FLAVOR OF THE SPANISH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THE
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009